

The LOVER.

Written in Imitation of the TATLER.

*Young Nobles, to my Laws Attention lend:
And all you Vulgar of my School, attend.*

Art of Love, Congreve.

To be Published every *Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.*

Tuesday, March 2. 1714.

Lovers-Lodge, March 2.

NOW I have told all the World my Name and Place of Abode, it is impossible for me to enjoy the Studious Retirement I promis'd my self in this place. For most of the People of Wit and Quality who frequented these Lodgings in Mr. *Powell's* time have been here, and I having a silly Creature of a Footman who never lived but with private Gentlemen, and cannot stedfastly Lie, they all see by his Countenance he does not speak Truth when he denies me, and will break in upon me. It is an unspeakable Pleasure that so many beauteous Ladies have made me Compliments upon my Design to favour and defend the Sex against all Pretenders without Merit, and those who have Merit, and use it only to deceive and betray. The principal Fair ones of the Town, and the most eminent Toasts, have sign'd an Address of Thanks to me, and in the body of it laid before me some Grievances, among which the greatest are the evil Practices of a Set of Persons whom they call in their Presentation the *Lovers Vagabond*. There has been indeed, ever since I knew this Town, one Man of Condition or other, who has been at the Head, and giving Example to this sort of Companions, been the Model for the Fashion. It would be a vain thing to pretend to Property in a Country where Thieves were tolerated, and it is as much so to Talk of Honour and Decency when the prevailing Humour runs directly against them. The *Lovers Vagabond* are an Order of Modern Adventurers, who seem to be the exact Opposite to that venerable and chaste Fraternity, which were formerly called Knights Errant. As a Knight Errant professed the Practice and Protection of all Virtues, particularly Chastity, a *Lover Vagabond* tramples upon all Rights Domestick, Civil, Human and Divine, to come at his own Gratification in the Corruption of Innocent Women. There are sometimes Persons of good Accomplish-

(Price Two Pence.)

ments and Faculties who commence secretly *Lovers Vagabond*; but tho' Amorous Stealths have been imputed by some Historians to the wisest and greatest of Mankind, yet none but superficial Men have ever publickly entered into the List of the *Vagabond*. A *Lover Vagabond*, considering him in his utmost Perfection and Accomplishment, is but a seeming Man. He usually has a command of insignificant Words accompanied with easie Action, which passes among the sillier part of the Fair for Eloquence and fine Breeding. He has a Mein of Condescension, from the Knowledge that his Carriage is not absurd, which he pursues to the utmost Impudence. He can cover any Behaviour, or cloath any Idea with Words that to an unskilful Ear shall bear nothing of Offence. He has all the sufficiency which little Learning, and general Notices of things give to giddy Heads, and is wholly exempt from that diffidence which almost always accompanies great Sense and great Virtue in the Presence of those whom they admire. But the *Lover Vagabond* loving no Woman so much as to be distressed for the loss of her, his Manner is generally easie and janty, and it must be from very good Sense and Experience in Life, that he does not appear amiable. It happens unfortunately for him, tho' much to the Advantage of those whom I have taken under my Care, that the chief of this Order, at present, among us in *Great Britain*, is but a speculative *Debauchée*. He has the Language, the Air, the tender Glance; he can hang upon a Look, has most exactly the sudden Veneration of Face when he is caught ogling one whose Pardon he would beg for gazing, he has the Exultation at leading off a Lady to her Coach; can let drop an indifferent thing, or call her Servants with a Loudness, and a certain gay Insolence well enough; nay, he will hold her Hand too fast for a Man that leads her, and is indifferent to her, and yet come to that Gripe with such slow Degrees, that she cannot say

he



he squeezed her Hand, but for further he has not Inclination. This Chieftain, however, I fear will give me more plague and disturbance than any one Man with whom I am to engage, or rather Whom I am to circumvent. He is busie in all Places; an ample Fortune, and Vigour of Life, enables him to carry on a shew of great Devastation where-ever he comes. But I give him hereby fair Warning to turn his Thoughts to new Entertainments, upon pain of having it discovered, that he is still a Virgin upon whom he made his last Settlement. The Secret, that he is more innocent than he seems, is preserved by great Charge and Expence on humble Retainers and Servants of his Pleasures. But some of the Women, who are above the Age of Novices, have found him out, and have in a private Gang given him the Nick-name of the *Blite*, for that they find themselves blasted by him, tho' they are not sensible of his Touch. It was the other Day said, at a Visit, Mr. such a one, naming the *Blite*, had ruined a certain young Lady; No, said a sensible Female, *If she says so, I am sure she wrongs him. He may*, continued she, with an Air of a disappointed Woman, between Rage and Laughter, *hire Russians to abuse her, but many a Woman has come out of the Blite's Hands even safer than she wished. I know one to whom, at parting, with a thousand Poetical Repetitions, and pressing her Hands, he vowed he would tell no Body; but the Flirt, throwing out of his Arms, answered perstly, I don't make you the same Promise.*

Tho' I shall from this time to time display the Lovers Vagabond in their proper Colours, I here publish an Act of Indemnity to all Females who took them for fine Fellows 'till my Writings appeared, that is to say, (for in a publick Act we must be very clear) I shall not look back to any thing that happened before Thursday the 25th of February last past, that being the first Day of my Appearance in Publick.

I expect, therefore, to find, that on that Day all vagrant Desires took their leave of the Cities of London and Westminster.

In order to recover Simplicity of Manners without the Loss of true Gaiety of Life, I shall take upon me the Office of *Arbiter Elegantiarum*. I cannot easily put those two Latin into two as expressive English Words; but my Meaning is, to set up for a Judge of elegant Pleasures, and I shall dare to assert, in the first place, (to shew both the discerning and severity of a just Judge) that the greatest Elegance of Delights consists in the Innocence of them; I expect, therefore, a Seat to be kept for me at all Balls, and a Ticket sent, that by my self, or a subordinate Officer of mine, I may know what is done and said at all Assemblies of Diversion; I shall take care to substitute none, where I cannot be my self present, who are not fit for the best bred Society; in the Choice of such Deputies I shall have particular regard to their being accomplished in the little Usages of ordinary and common Life, as well as in noble and liberal Arts.

I have many Youths, who, in the intermediate Seasons between the Terms at the Universities, are under my Discipline, after being perfect Masters of the Greek and Roman Eloquence, to learn of me ordinary things, such as coming in, and going out of a Room. Mr. *Severn* himself, whom I now make the Pattern of Good-breeding, and my top fine Gentleman, was with me twice a Day upon his first coming to Town, before he could leave the Room

with any tolerable Grace; when he had a mind to be going he never could move without bringing in the Words, *Well Sir, I find I interrupt you; or Well I fear you have other Business, or Well I must be going*; hereupon I made him give me a certain Sum of Money down in Hand, under the Penalty of forfeiting Twenty Shillings every time upon going away he pronounced the Particle *well*. I will not say how much it cost him before he could get well out of the Room; some silly Particle or other, as if to tack the taking leave with the rest of the Discourse, is a common Error of young Men of good Education.

Tho' I have already declared I shall not use Words of Foreign Termination, I cannot help that my Correspondents do it. A Gentleman therefore who subscribes *Aronces*, and writes to me concerning some Regulations to be made among a Sett of Country Dancers, must be more particular in his Account. His general Complaint is, that the Men who are at the Expence of the Ball, bring People of different Characters together, and the Libertine and Innocent are huddled, to the Danger of the latter, and Encouragement of the former. I have frequently observed this kind of Enormity, and must desire *Aronces* to give me an exact Relation of the Airs and Glances of the whole Company, and particularly how Mrs Gatty sets, when it happens that she is to pass by the *Lover Vagabond*, who, I find, is got into that Company by the Favour of his Cousin Jenny. For I design to have a very strict Eye upon these Diversions, and it shall not suffice, that, according to the Author of *The Rape of the Lock*, all Faults are laid upon Sylphs; when I make my Enquiry, as the same Author has it,

*What guards the Purity of melting Maids
In courtly Balls and midnight Masquades,
Safe from the treacherous Friend and daring Spark,
The Glance by Day and whisper in the dark?
When kind Occasion prompts their warm Desires,
When Music softens, and when Dancing fires?*

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